

	ft.	in.
Circumference of the body near the fore-paws.....	3	2
Breadth of the back at the fore-paws .....	1	0
From one fore-paw to the other, extended out .....	2	6
Length of the fore-paw .....	0	10
Length of the hind-paw .....	0	11
Circumference at the hind-paws .....	1	6
Breadth of the head across the ears, horizontally measured..	0	7
Length of the head .....	0	9
Breadth of the nose ....	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

"Other seals have been taken nearly, if not quite, double this size."

A paper was then read, "On a new Genus of the Family *Lophidæ* (les Pectorales Pediculées, Cuv.) discovered in Madeira." By the Rev. R. T. Lowe, M.A., Corr. Memb.

The addition, Mr. Lowe observes, of an unequivocal new genus to a family so circumscribed and so singular as *Lophidæ* is well-worthy of remark. The present genus has, besides, further claims on the attention of the ichthyologist in the peculiar combination of distinctive features of its own with characters exhibited by other groups in the same family; and this independent of the interest attaching to the fish in which they are exemplified, from singularity of form and aspect, brilliancy of colouring, locality, and extreme rarity, no other instance of its capture at Madeira having occurred during the last twenty years.

It is nearest allied amongst the groups of *Lophidæ*, in general habit and aspect, with *Cheironectes*, Cuv., although in technical characters it may seem to approach even nearer to *Halieutæa*, Val.

The individual described was taken with an ordinary bait and line at the Picos, a rocky shoal about a league from shore off Camera de Lobos, a village five or six miles westward of Funchal.

#### CHAUNAX, nov. gen.

*Char. Gen.* Corpus subcubico-oblongum, sufflatabile, nudum, cute præsertim ad ilia ventremque flaccidissimâ laxâ; anticè obesum, posticè abruptè attenuatum subcompressum. Caput osseum magnum subtetrahedrum, supernè nuchâque latum planatum, utrinque S. ad genas declive; oculis lateralibus spatio interoculari convexo; ore rictuque amplissimis transversis plagio-plateis S. depressis. Dentes intermaxillares vomerinique palatinique parvi scobinati. Nares simplices (nec pedicellatæ nec tubulosæ). Spiracula (foramina branchialia) postica S. ad ilia pone pinnarum pectoralium axillas.

Pinna dorsalis unica; pectoralibus (pedicellatis) carnosus ventralibus jugularibus spathulatis carnosus; analis postica; caudalis simplex truncata.

Cirri, præter unicum in fossulâ internasali, nulli.

*Chaunax pictus*, Lowe.

D. 11; A. 5; P. 11; V. 4; C.  $\frac{1+IV.}{2+II.}$

Species adhuc unica.

*Hab.* In mari Maderensi.

Shape thick and deep, subcubic, about half as deep as broad, with a puffy flaccid appearance, and evidently capable of vast inflation; bulky forwards, with the head, nape and body of equal depth and thickness, contracting suddenly on the flanks or behind the pectoral fins into a short thickish tail. Back of head and nape as far as the dorsal fin broad and thick, flattened and uneven or irregularly protuberant; thence to the end of the dorsal fin the body is nearly cylindric, becoming compressed towards the root of the caudal fin.

Head broad and deep; eyes lateral; sides of the head steep, but not flat; mouth very large and wide, but not so wide as the head, horse-shoe or crescent-shaped. Teeth in a distinct brush-like band on the edges of both jaws. Tongue very large, thick, hard and smooth. The nostrils are two inconspicuous, minute, round, simple pores on each side, one a little before the other near the edge of the muzzle. Eyes of moderate size, roundish oval, rather prominent, but not pedicelled.

In the middle of the front of the muzzle is a short, pedicelled, soft, flaccid tentacle or caruncle scarcely more than a semidiameter of the eye in height or length; the whole body destitute of any other tentacle, ray, filament or spine whatever; the top of the head is however irregularly knobbed, or uneven, with bony prominences and depressions.

The breathing-holes or branchial orifices are placed far backwards, considerably behind the hinder axils of the pectoral fins, in the middle of the flanks, which are peculiarly flaccid and flabby. They are oval ear-shaped, and about the size or diameter of the eyes.

The dorsal fin is single, placed nearly in the middle of the whole length, its height one-fourth of the length of its base.

The anal fin is placed far behind, opposite the end of the dorsal.

The pectoral fins are placed low down about the middle of the length of the body, beneath the origin of the dorsal fin.

The ventral fins are close together, very forward, quite under the throat.

Caudal fin simple, truncate, with a straight edge.

All the fins, except the dorsal and caudal, are thick and fleshy, with the rays strong but indiscernible to the eye, except towards the outer edges of the pectoral fins.

The whole head and body, with the maxillaries and the rays of the dorsal and caudal fins, are finely hispid or shagreened, and rough and scabrous to the touch, the under surface more finely shagreened than the upper.

The whole skin is singularly loose and flaccid. The head and body are, as it were, mapped out into compartments by remarkable chain-like rows of pits or oblong, shining, smooth depressions in the skin. One set or row of these begins upon the muzzle, and passing above each eye, turns downwards behind it and runs on a level with its lower edge straight along the sides as far as the breathing-holes, thence downwards along the tail to the caudal fin.

Under the lower jaw is a horse-shoe-shaped space enclosed by similar smooth pits, the two ends of which, connected by a transverse chain of pits, turn off backwards towards the corners of the mouth, and continuing low down on the sides of the belly, end underneath the axil of the pectoral fins.

A third wavy line runs along the inner or hinder edges of the maxillaries, and turning obliquely backwards some distance underneath the eye, descends till it meets and is terminated by a fourth obliquely vertical row which crosses the nape like a head-stall, and is terminated low down on the sides of the throat by the second longitudinal line. On the nape the edges of these pits are raised or echinulate, and more disconnected than elsewhere.

Colour of the whole fish above bright orange, beautifully rosy at the flanks and sides, and with the fins and lips vermilion; on the belly it is nearly white or pale, suffused with flesh-colour or rosy, and with the ventral or anal fins deeper vermilion.

The tentacle dull, its stalk orange.

MEASUREMENTS.	inches.
Whole length . . . . .	16
From tip of upper jaw to origin of dorsal fin . . . . .	6
Length of base of dorsal fin . . . . .	4
Length from end of base of ditto to root of caudal fin. . . .	2
Length of caudal fin . . . . .	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Length of head . . . . .	5
Breadth, greatest at fore axil of pectoral fins, from . .	8 to 10
Depth, greatest half-way, the tip of upper jaw and origin of dorsal fin . . . . .	4
Depth at root of caudal fin . . . . .	1
Length from tip of lower jaw to root of ventral fins . . . .	4
Length of ventral fins . . . . .	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Length from each breathing-hole to root of caudal fin. . . .	5
Diameter of eyes . . . . .	0 $\frac{3}{4}$

Mr. Gould then exhibited to the meeting two new Australian birds, which he characterized as follows:—

*MELIPHAGA LONGIROSTRIS.* *Vertice et genis nigris; plumis minutis ad basin mandibulæ superioris, mystacibus ad basin inferioris mandibulæ, strig'd superciliari, plumarum cristulâ post aures, plumisque in jugulo setosis, albis.*

Top of the head and cheeks black, with minute white feathers on the forehead round the base of the upper mandible; a superciliary stripe, a moustache at the base of the lower mandible, and a small tuft of feathers immediately behind the ear-coverts white; feathers on the throat white and bristle-like; upper surface brownish black, becoming browner on the rump; wings brownish black, the outer edges of the quills margined at the base with beautiful wax-yellow, and faintly margined with white towards the extremities; tail brownish black, margined externally at the base with wax-yel-